

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01625 241559Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 INR-10
INRE-00 IO-13 PM-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 OMB-01
/057 W

-----121274 241612Z /14-S

O 241500Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7271

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1625

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR UN LE IS MOPS

SUBJ: BACHIR GEMAYEL ON CHRISTIAN MILITIA IN SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) BEIRUT 1564, (B) STATE 073647

1. PER REF B INSTRUCTIONS, EMBOFF MET WITH BACHIR GEMAYEL ON MARCH 24. BACHIR PROMISED HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO INSURE THAT CHRISTIAN MILITIA IN SOUTH LEBANON COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA THERE WERE UNDER THE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ISRAEL, INCLUDING THOSE WHO WERE MEMBERS OF THE KATAIB.

2. AS HE HAD ON MARCH 22 (REF A), BACHIR SAID THE PEOPLE WHO HAD GONE SOUTH HAD DONE SO OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL AND NOT AT THE DIRECTION OF THE KATAIB. ON MARCH 22, HOWEVER, BACHIR HAD CLAIMED THAT ALL WERE ORIGINALLY FROM THE SOUTH. THIS TIME, HE
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01625 241559Z

SAID THAT 70 PERCENT WERE ORIGINALLY FROM THE AREA AND THE OTHER 30 PERCENT WERE "VOLUNTEERS". HE SPECIFIED THAT NONE OF THE PEOPLE HAD HAD WEAPONS WHEN THEY LEFT BEIRUT: IF THEY NOW HAD WEAPONS, THEY HAD BEEN ARMED BY ISRAEL, BACHIR STRESSED. "SEVERAL HUNDRED" PEOPLE HAD GONE SOUTH, HE SAID, ALL VIA ISRAEL.

3. BACHIR REMARKED THAT ISRAELI RADIO HAD REPORTED THAT ONE

"CLOVIS RIZK", IDENTIFIED AS A KATAIB OFFICIAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON, HAD OPPOSED THE ENTRY OF UNIFIL. IN FACT, BACHIR SAID, THE KATAIB HAD NO IDEA WHO RIZK WAS: HE CERTAINLY DID NOT BELONG TO THE KATAIB PARTY. BACHIR ALSO SAID SA'AD HADDAD WAS CLOSER TO THE NLP THAN TO THE KATAIB.

4. BACHIR EMPHASIZED THAT THE ISRAELI INVASION HAD BEEN A "CATASTROPHE" FOR LEBANON. THE CHRISTIANS HAD HOPED THE ISRAELIS WOULD "CLEAN OUT" THE PALESTINIANS. INSTEAD, THE ISRAELIS HAD DRIVEN THE PALESTINIANS NORTH AND CAUSED SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS IN BEIRUT, HE SAID.
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